

**ATTACHMENT 2: DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 684 TO REGULATE THE
DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS WITHIN 150 YARDS OF PROPERTY LINES**

684.001 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

- a. "Sheriff" means the Sheriff of the County or his or her designee.
- b. "Firearm" means any weapon which will, is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, provided that stud nailing guns, rivet guns and similar construction equipment, neither designed or intended as weapons, shall not be deemed firearms.
- c. "Gun" means and includes any rifle, shotgun, pistol or other firearm, and also includes any air gun, air rifle or other similar device designed and intended to expel a projectile through a gun barrel of any length by means of explosive, expansion or release of compressed gas or compressed air.
- d. "Parcel" means any lot or other contiguous area of land in one ownership or in which all of the owners have joined in a written acknowledgment of the rights of all of them to shoot on all of such land, which constitutes, when combined, an area of not less than twenty acres.
- e. "Pistol" means a gun having a barrel of less than sixteen inches in length.
- f. "Recreational shooting" means the discharge of firearms or weapons, except bows and arrows, at fixed or moveable artificial targets.
- g. "Rifle" means a gun designed, made and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed and made to use the energy of an explosive or compressed gas or compressed air to expel a single projectile through a rifled barrel for each pull of the trigger.
- h. "Shotgun" means a weapon designed, made and intended to be

1 fired from the shoulder and designed and made to use the
2 energy of an explosive in a shotgun shell to fire through a
3 smooth bore one or a number of balls shot for each pull of
4 the trigger.
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- 6 i. "Starting pistol" means any device which is designed or
7 functions to
simulate the firing of a weapon by means of a primer or other
explosive charge, but which cannot be readily converted for use
as a firearm.

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684.06. DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS.[NEW
SECTION]

a. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to regulate the
shooting of firearms or guns in the County, under authority
granted the County in Section 15.2-1209 of the Code of
Virginia of 1950, as amended. The unincorporated portion
of the County is determined to be a heavily populated area
subject to the restrictions set forth in this section.

b. Unlawful Acts. No person shall discharge any firearm or gun
on, across, or within one hundred fifty (150) yards of the
property line of any property whose owner has not permitted
such activity.

c. Exceptions. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit
the following acts:

i. The discharge of firearms or guns on any target, trap
or skeet range or hunting preserve lawfully existing upon
the date of adoption of this section or hereafter
established in compliance with all other provisions of this
Code, other local ordinances, and state and federal laws;

ii. The discharge of firearms or guns by any duly
authorized peace officer or law enforcement official acting
in the proper performance of his or her duties;

iii. The discharge of firearms or guns upon a target range
operated by any police department or other law enforcement
agency;

- iv. The discharge of firearms or guns in defense of one's life or to kill a dangerous or destructive wild animal; and
- v. The discharge of blank cartridges in theatrical performances or sporting events or at military funerals or other military affairs.